



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, child abuse and neglect is a societal problem that affects nearly every community within our state and nation; and

**WHEREAS**, sadly, the number of abused or neglected children continues to increase every year; child abuse and neglect includes physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and physical neglect, all of which may be the result of a multiplicity of such social problems as family dysfunction, mental health problems, substance abuse, inadequate parenting skills, teen pregnancy, homelessness, family violence, crime, and poverty; and

**WHEREAS**, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to recognize the intense problem of child abuse and the lasting effects it has on our state's most precious resource: our children; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the duty of community and state leadership to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect, and to establish prevention and support mechanisms for children and parents in order to stop the cycle of abuse that destroys the lives of those affected; and

**WHEREAS**, the designation of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month is an effort to raise awareness of child abuse and to encourage communities throughout our state to create partnerships among social service agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community, and to become involved in supporting parents to raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim, April 2006, as

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 23rd day of March, 2006.

Governor

Secretary of State

